

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

11 am

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES UPON ENTERING
THE SANCTUARY OF THE MEMORIAL CHURCH.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 (ca. 1748) *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

INTROIT

Drop Down, Ye Heavens (Rorate cæli desuper)

Plainsong, Tone I

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever:
Thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
Our holy and most beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf:
And our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us:
And hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Savior:
And there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:
Fear not, for I will save thee:
For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

after Isaiah 45

HYMN IN PROCESSION

No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

During the singing of this hymn, the first Advent candle is lit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 40 and Isaiah 2:

Minister: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

People: Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

Minister: The uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

People: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together."

Minister: Come, let us set out in the light of the Lord.

CONFESSION

In unison:

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sin, and whose mercy we forget: cleanse us from all offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires; that humbly we may draw near to thee, confessing our faults, confiding in thy grace, and finding in thee our refuge and our strength, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HYMN

No. 102, "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

THE PEACE & GREETING

All are invited to join in the singing of Hymn No. 27, stanza 1.

OFFERTORY

The offering collected goes directly to fund the Memorial Church Grants Committee's recipient organizations and their important work in our local communities. Ushers will begin collection from the front of the church. Checks can be written to the Memorial Church with the memo line "Grants Committee." You may also donate online at <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate>

Psalm 25:1–9, *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

Tone I.7

Sung by the choir

Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul; my God, I have put my trust in thee:

O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me.

For all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed;

but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to confusion.

Show me thy ways, O Lord, and teach me thy paths.

Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me: for thou art the God of my salvation;

in thee hath been my hope all the day long.

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies, and thy loving-kindnesses,
which have been ever of old.

O remember not the sins and offences of my youth;

but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

Gracious and righteous is the Lord; therefore, will he teach sinners in the way.

Them that are meek shall he guide in judgment;

and such as are gentle, them shall he learn his way.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth,

unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

DOXOLOGY

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all people here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Pew Bible, page 696 (OT)

ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps

*Traditional African American
arr. André J. Thomas (b. 1952)*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.
Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 21:25–36

Pew Bible, page 74 (NT)

ANTHEM

How Long, Dear Savior, O How Long (“Northfield”)

Jeremiah Ingalls (1764–1838)

How long, dear Savior, O how long
Shall this bright hour delay,
Fly swifter round the wheel of time,
And bring the welcome day.

From the third heaven, where God resides,
That holy, happy place,
The new Jerusalem comes down,
Adorned with shining grace.

Isaac Watts (1674–1478)

PRAYER HYMN

The congregation remains seated.

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to
see thee more clear - ly, love thee more dear - ly,
fol - low thee more near - ly, day by day.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In unison:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, the Prayer Hymn is repeated.

SERMON

There Will Be Signs

HYMN

No. 99, "Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

Merton

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661 (ca. 1748)

Johann Sebastian Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, November 28, 2021

WELCOME

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Right Reverend Carol Gallagher, Canon for the Central Region, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. The worship leaders are the Reverend Matthew Ichihashi Potts, Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Faculty of Divinity, Harvard University; Laurie Sedgwick MDiv III; and Cheyenne Boon MDiv II. The music is provided by the Harvard University Choir under the direction of Edward Elwyn Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster.

MUSIC NOTES

André J. Thomas recently retired as Director of Choral Activities at Florida State University and is currently serving as the interim conductor of the Yale Camerata. A noted composer, conductor, and arranger of spirituals for choirs, Dr. Thomas's most recent project is the large-scale *Mass: A Celebration of Love and Joy*, which the Harvard University Choir will perform during ARTS FIRST 2022. *Keep Your Lamps* is a traditional spiritual, which takes as its theme the parable of the wise and foolish virgins from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jeremiah Ingalls was an important member of a group of self-taught composers active in New England during the period 1770–1820. This group created an indigenous sacred repertoire readily accessible to all, which became instantly popular amid the explosion of religious fervor at that time. Ingalls is remembered primarily for his collection of early New England folk hymns, *The Christian Harmony* (1805), which contains the Advent hymn *Northfield*.

To welcome in the new liturgical year, today's organ music comprises two settings of the Advent hymn, "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" ("Savior of the Nations, Come") from Bach's collection of large-scale chorale preludes known as the "Great Eighteen." The prelude is plaintive in mood with florid elaborations of the melody in the treble; while the postlude is a lively toccata which presents the chorale melody in the pedals.

MORNING PRAYERS

Our daily service of Morning Prayers takes place at 8:30 am. Monday: Calvon Jones; Tuesday: Kent Montgomery French MDiv '07; Wednesday: Matthew Ichihashi Potts; Thursday: John Finley IV '92, MDiv '98; Friday: Charles William Bell III, HKS MC/MPA '22

THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE

On Thursday, December 2 at 9 pm, Compline, a twenty-minute candlelit evening service, will be sung by the Harvard University Choir, based upon the traditional evening liturgy of scripture, music, prayers, and silence.

THE 112TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

The 112th Annual Christmas Carol Services will be held in the Memorial Church Sanctuary on Sunday, December 12 at 5 pm, and on Tuesday, December 14 at 8 pm. Tickets will be available through the Harvard Box Office beginning December 1. The service is free, but seating is limited. Doors will open an hour prior to each service. The wellbeing of our community remains our primary commitment. All attendees must be masked. All attendees will be asked to present their Harvard ID at the door, or show proof of vaccination, or show a proof of negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours. In addition, all attendees must attest to their current health status.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

The wellbeing of our visitors, students, and staff remains our top commitment at the Memorial Church. Harvard University continues to closely monitor the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and it is an ever-changing situation.

We are taking important steps to protect against COVID-19. We grateful for your assistance helping us to take these precautionary measures to prevent the spread of infection and to prioritize the wellbeing of our community, especially the most vulnerable in our midst.

We ask that all visitors, students, and staff abide by the following:

- All individuals will be masked indoors.
- All individuals/households will attest to the state of their health upon arrival. Individuals will be asked to leave if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or exhibiting symptoms with COVID-19.
- All individuals will refrain from public consumption of food and beverage indoors.

Please review the latest guidance for on-campus activity before attending services or other events on campus. Seating with physical distancing is available.

Guidance may be subject to additions and changes based upon the distribution of the disease and local disease dynamics. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this time.

Things are a bit different. Some of the details of our worship life have been altered to accommodate pandemic restrictions. Some of our programming has been adjusted to keep

everyone safe. But what we hope you find entirely familiar is the love and openness and welcome with which we hope to fill our church each day.

FAITH & LIFE FORUM

The Faith & Life Forum of the Memorial Church explores matters of faith and public life. The Forum takes place in the Buttrick Room in the lower level of the Memorial Church from 9:30–10:30 am on Sundays. Each week we explore themes such as love, justice, suffering, and salvation in relation to the world in which we live. We learn from scholars and practitioners of religion, religious intellectuals, writers, activists, and artists whose work captures conceptions of the sacred and wrestles with the mysterious dimensions of life. All are welcome to join. Participants will need to register and attest to their health in order to participate in the weekly forum gatherings. There is both a virtual and in-person component. Please visit our website to learn more.

CHURCH SCHOOL

The Church School offers Christian education classes for children of age three through sixteen. All classes are held during Sunday Services in the Fall and Spring Terms. To participate in the Church School program, parents or guardians need to register their children, and to attest to the state of their children's health weekly. Please visit our website to learn more or email Assistant Minister, Calvon Jones (*calvon_jones@harvard.edu*), with any questions.

The Rev. Jones and the Church School team are excited to announce the launch of our newly designed MemChurch School digital platform. Our children and families will have access to fun, exciting, and educational episodes, steeped in stories of love and humanity. Take a virtual journey to a digital place where the Bible comes to life. You can find episodes at: <https://bit.ly/3iUtEWW>

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a way to get more involved with the Memorial Church? Student Deacons might be the answer! Student Deacons is a volunteer, ecumenical Christian program involving both undergraduate and graduate students. Their service involves a ministry of hospitality and welcome during Sunday services and in the wider MemChurch community. If you're looking for a new opportunity for spiritual growth, please contact Student Program Coordinator, Anna Burnham (*anna_burnham@harvard.edu*), for more information!

PBHA STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

The Phillips Brooks House Association is seeking student volunteers who will be in the Cambridge area anytime between December 19–January 23 for assistance at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter and Y2Y. For more information, contact: *hsbs.volunteer@gmail.com* and *volunteer@y2yharvardsquare.org*

SUPPER AT SPARKS HOUSE

Colette and Matt Potts would like to invite vaccinated members of the congregation to join them for small group, casual suppers at Sparks House over the coming months. If you would like to gather with Colette, Matt, and a few other Memorial Churchgoers for conversation and fellowship, please contact Elizabeth Montgomery (*elizabeth_montgomery@harvard.edu*). As

Elizabeth gathers names, we will begin scheduling suppers to match the Pottses' and others' schedules over the coming months.

STUDENT OASIS

The Student Oasis in the lower level of the Memorial Church is a tranquil and relaxing space for study, for meeting friends and fellow students, even cooking a favorite meal in the full-service kitchen. Located in the heart of Harvard Yard, the Oasis is open daily to Harvard students during the academic term. For more information and the hours of operation, visit <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/studentoasis>

LISTEN TO SUNDAY WORSHIP AND MORNING PRAYERS

Sunday services are broadcast on Harvard's radio station, WHRB 95.3 FM in term; a live stream of the service is available at wrb.org. Recordings of Sunday Worship Services and Sunday Sermons are available on our website, memorialchurch.harvard.edu, during the week following the service. Sunday Sermons and Morning Prayers are also available on SoundCloud at <http://bit.ly/sundaysermons> and <http://bit.ly/morningprayers> respectively, and on iTunes—search “Harvard Memorial Church” from your iTunes app.

STAY CONNECTED TO THE MEMORIAL CHURCH

E-mail: Join our e-mail list and stay up-to-date with all the happenings in the Memorial Church. To sign up, visit our website at memorialchurch.harvard.edu

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/harvardmemorialchurch

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/memchurch

and **Instagram:** instagram.com/memchurch

Watch us on YouTube: youtube.com/memchurchharvard

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Next Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Reverend Matthew Ichihashi Potts, Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Faculty of Divinity, Harvard University.

DONATE TO THE MEMORIAL CHURCH

<https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate>



